



Paul J. Diodati
Director

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Marine Fisheries
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 626.1520
Fax (617) 626.1509



NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Under the provisions of M.G.L. Ch 30A ss. 3 and pursuant to the authority found in M.G.L. Ch. 130 ss. 17A, 80 and 104, Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) has established a public comment period on a recently enacted emergency action affecting the January 1 – April 22 period commercial summer flounder fishery (322 CMR 6.22).

On January 9, 2004 *Marine Fisheries* enacted an emergency regulation to increase the winter period commercial summer flounder (fluke) trip limit from 1,000 pounds to 2,500 pounds. *Marine Fisheries* proposes enacting this regulation on a permanent basis. Monitoring and analysis of previous years' landings showed that total landings during the January 1 to April 22 period had fallen far short of the 30% quota target, thus the trip limit was increased to allow fishermen their full quota allocation as allowed under current state regulations.

Contact DMF for draft regulations and further details. Written comments may be received by e-mail, (Melanie.griffin@state.ma.us), fax (617.626.1509), or mail (DMF; 251 Causeway St., Suite 400; Boston, MA 02114) and will be accepted until 5PM on Friday, February 20, 2004.

For further information please visit our website at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.